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**REQUEST  
FOR  
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000,

Provides for continued examination of a utility or plant

Application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA)

Application Number: 09/854,976  
Filing Date: May 14, 2001  
First Named Inventor: Scott Lekuch  
Group Art Unit: 2673  
Examiner Name: Sheng, Tom V.  
Customer No.: 22032  
Attorney Docket Number: YOR920000704US3

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

**Note:** 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 153 (d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (August 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (March 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

- a. XXXXX Previously submitted  
i. XXXXX Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 previously filed on November 5, 2003 (any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).  
ii. \_\_\_\_\_ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed filed on \_\_\_\_\_  
iii. \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
b. \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed  
i. \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment/Reply  
ii. \_\_\_\_\_ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)  
iii. \_\_\_\_\_ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)  
iv. \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Miscellaneous

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)  
b. \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. Fees The RCE fee Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. XXXXX The Director is hereby authorized to charge the amount of \$770.00 and any additional fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-0510.  
i. XXXXX RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)  
ii. \_\_\_\_\_ Extension of Time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)  
iii. \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
b. \_\_\_\_\_ Check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed  
c. \_\_\_\_\_ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

December 4, 2003

Date of Signature

12/08/2003 JBALINAN 00000061 500510 09854976

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**CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING**

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Certificate No. EL999555215US, service under 37 CFR § 1.10 and is addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 4, 2003.

Kenroy A. Browne

(Typed name of person mailing paper)

*Kenroy A. Browne*  
(Signature of person mailing paper)